

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,  
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009, 6:30 PM  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, August 24, 2009, at 6:30 PM, in the Senior High Library. Committee members present were: Chairman Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Werkheiser, and Mr. Mullen. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

The press was represented by citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Chairman Norris asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Peg Buckley, former Foreign Language Chairperson, who passed away in July. Ms. Buckley taught in the Rockland Public Schools for over forty years and retired in June. Mr. Norris also expressed condolences to the Michael Zupkofska family on the untimely death of his cousin.

On motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2009 were accepted.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of July 7, 2009 were accepted.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School District Committee meetings of May 20 and June 17, 2009 were noted.

A request from the Girl Scout Council of Southeastern Mass. to distribute flyers to elementary students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

The Superintendent highlighted the work done by the Maintenance Department and custodians during this summer noting that the crew was down three members. The projects included relighting, solar panels and tree trimming at the high school, plumbing repairs and carpeting at the Middle School, painting of exterior windows, replacement of cafeteria floor at Memorial Park, replacement of hot water heater, paving of parking lot and painting of classroom at Esten, outside electrical work and sink holes filled at Jefferson. Mr. Retchless noted that there will be a conference call with the Department of Education in September regarding the H1N1 flu. Also there are no new warnings with regard to mosquitoes.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following June Monthly Reports were approved:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Administrators           | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath,<br>Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance                 | Mrs. Cann   |
| 3) Nurse                    | Mrs. Ryan   |
| 4) Pupil Personnel Services | Ms. Salem   |

The Committee requested that the two teachers who went to a Bullying Seminar this summer come to a meeting to discuss what they learned.

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for June were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities

After a general discussion regarding Chartwells and the Cafeteria financial report, it was voted to accept the report for June for the Cafeteria Department. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On five separate motions by Mr. Mullen, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for June and July were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The Building Rentals for June and July were noted.

Mr. Scarpelli noted that the year ended well financially and that \$554 was returned to the Town. On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the proposed budget transfers.

Superintendent Retchless gave an overview of the 2009-2010 School Budget noting that the override enabled Special Education to be fully funded. We are proceeding on the conservative side.

The Superintendent noted that twenty-nine students from the high school and twenty-three students participated in the 2009 Summer School Program.

Mrs. Werkheiser brought the Committee up to date on the Middle School Building project noting that Option 4 was approved by the MSBA. This option includes a new Middle School with complete renovations to the High School. A presentation will be made to the MSBA Board on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A Special Town meeting will be scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Special Election on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Retchless stated that members of the Committee visited the Bourne Elementary School to inspect the heating system that is like the one proposed for the Rogers Middle School. The Committee was very pleased.

On motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, it was voted to approve the proposed fundraisers for September through December 2009.

After a general discussion regarding Teacher Manuals and Student Handbooks, it was voted to approve the 2009-2010 Teacher Manuals. It was suggested that some stimulus money be used to update and review all policies and procedures. Motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser. Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mullen and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Mills was opposed. Mr. Mills requested a new policy be created on the use of cell phones. The

Superintendent will present the first reading of a cell phone policy the second meeting in September.

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There was a general discussion with regard to the subject of Home Education. On the motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, it was voted to approve the proposed Home Education requests for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Pezzella, and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Norris and Mr. Mills were opposed.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, it was voted to approve the donation from the 99 Restaurant in the amount of \$4,009 and to send a letter.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the donation from Fred Brown, former Esten School teacher, in the amount of Mr. Brown's first year's salary and to send a letter. The donation has been given to the Esten School and a Committee has been formed to decide how the money will be spent.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the donation of office supplies and binders from the Rockland Trust Company and to send a letter.

There was a general discussion with regard to Avon Public Schools being added as a member of the North River Collaborative. Mr. Norris asked for a vote to abstain from voting. There was no motion. It was then voted to table the approval of Avon Public Schools to be added as a member of the North River Collaborative. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. Mr. Mills, Mrs. Pezzella, Mrs. Werkheiser, and Mr. Mullen voted in favor. Mr. Norris abstained. The Committee requested that Mrs. Haley Sullivan, North River Collaborative Executive Director, and Dr. Levine, Rockland School representative attend the next School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Retchless reviewed personnel information for June, July and August noting the new teachers that have been hired. It was also noted that Federal Stimulus money is being used to hire a social worker at the high school.

Mrs. Pezzella welcomed all students back to school and wished them well. Mrs. Werkheiser sent condolences to Mrs. Buckley's family and reminded the public about the next Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted that school calendars are available at all schools for one dollar. It was also noted that football practices have started and the public should be mindful of the students walking. Grade 6 orientation will be held at the Middle School on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM into Executive Session not to reconvene in open session. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills  
Secretary

On motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the meeting reconvened in the High School Library at 7:50 PM. Superintendent Retchless and Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli were invited to attend.

A Stage 3 Grievance Hearing for the dismissal of Mrs. Denise Curran was held. Present were: Mr. Paul Stanish, Middle School Principal, Ms. Diana Gondek, Attorney for the School Committee, Ms. Joy Beckwith, MTA representative, Ms. Kathy Paulding, REA representative, Mrs. Mary Flanagan, REA President, and Mrs. Curran.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to direct the Superintendent of Schools to fashion a remedy for Mrs. Curran's employment for the 2009-2010 school year.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.  
Secretary